

**KENDRICK PARK DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Friday, March 18, 2011 – 11:00 AM**  
**Lower Meeting Room, Bangs Center**  
**MINUTES**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Peg Roberts, Marilyn Rodzwell, Alan Snow, Christina Mata, and Susan Sheldon
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Liz Rosenberg, Peter Blier and Hope Crolus
<b>STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Christine Brestrup, Senior Planner (KPDAC Member)
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Alan Root, Resident

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**1. Concept Plans – review Concept Plans, including draft “Preferred Alternative” Plan**

General consensus – the group liked the “Preferred Concept Plan”, with some proposed amendments;

Comment - Kendrick Park will be a strong north/south circulation area once the Gateway project becomes a reality;

The Cecil Group should be kept up to date on what’s happening with the Gateway project although the schedules for these two projects are “out of sync”;

The three entryways are very important; the Triangle Street entry (northeast corner of the park) should be given greater importance, but at the same time shielded or buffered from the noise and traffic at the Triangle Street/East Pleasant Street intersection;

There was consensus that the proposed parking along the west side of East Pleasant Street may not be a good idea; cars parked along East Pleasant Street will block views into the park from cars passing on East Pleasant Street; this could be a security problem; also traffic is heavy along East Pleasant Street and will make exiting from the driver’s side of cars difficult there; also, it is pleasant to see the “green” park rather than cars parked along the road when driving past the park in this location;

Angled parking on the west side of the park (along North Pleasant Street) should be explored; this could provide more spaces than parallel parking; some attendees expressed reservations about this because of difficulties entering and exiting angled spaces; if parking is eliminated on west side of North Pleasant Street, there might be enough room for angled parking on the east side of the street;

Benches – more benches are needed, not just granite wall/seats; put more benches at the north end of the southern space, on the west side of the space; this will still leave room for access to market space in the center; Boy Scouts only use about 2/3 of the southern space, so there is room for benches at the north end of this space;

South end of southern space – don’t block it off; entry should be welcoming; trees shouldn’t block entry;

Entry spaces (north and south) should have something to attract visitors to the park – not just planting beds; perhaps sculpture or lights; they need “pizzazz”; consider use of arched entryways (perhaps of wrought iron, no gates) at entry spaces, similar to some European parks; see Amherst College practice football field; one committee member provided a sketch of an idea; see attached sketch; prepare some sketches of the three entry points to show what they might look like;

Idea of sidewalk widening to accommodate markets along east or west sides of park – consensus that it is better to invite people into the park for activities rather than having widened sidewalks along the edges;

Northern end of park - reconfigure northern green space – eliminate walkway that encircles northern space and eliminate granite wall/seats there; make northern green space more like it was in Concept Plan A; this will provide more space for running and throwing a Frisbee or football; “We love that northern open space!”

Playground – we want something unique and wonderful for the play area; look at park with Dr. Suess sculptures in Springfield, at the Quadrangle; the play area is a big part of the program; all agreed that some “natural” playgrounds look messy; this playground needs to look nice even when it’s not in use; sculpture may work well here; perhaps we could talk to the Eric Carle Museum about partnering on the playground;

Performance area – the group likes the “two-tiered” aspect of the performance area; add a walkway along the back of the amphitheatre, along the back of the granite wall/seating of the performance area to get people from one side of the park to the other; connect this walk to the playground area so that people can get there with strollers;

Final Concept Plan for public hearing – put some topography on the plan, if possible; use colors more similar to the Concept C plan;

If possible, do a cross section through the whole park, to show the topographical changes;

Pergola – the group likes the idea of a pergola to give vertical relief to the park and to provide a space for people to stand and watch activity; move the pergola to a position along the path that runs along the northern edge of the southern space, between East Pleasant Street and McClellan Street; make the walkway wide enough for people to stand under the pergola and watch activities and also have enough room for people to walk by; the pergola at this location will be an added visual cue for people to be attracted to come into the park from the south; also, can the walkway at the northern end of the southern space be gently curved?

**2. Plan meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**

The committee briefly discussed plans for the public meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

**3. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Christine M. Brestrup, Senior Planner